



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 9, 2006 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Finley.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Ray Gruntz, Mary Simpson, Jeff Apaka, Lawrence Connell, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Michael Peters, Gerald Katahara (appointed at this meeting).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Les Among, Tom Brower, Jim Poole, Jack Myers, Jeff Merz.

GUESTS: Mary Cowing, Gary Holt, Helen Carroll, Emily Arneson, Su Shin (Board of Water Supply), Lt. P. Loudermilk, Detective Ono (HPD), Jan Bappe, Emily Reed, Dirk Van Dyk, Joan Naguma, Robert and Nancy Kirkham, Pat Lee and Clyde Shimizu (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Fire Fighter Alan Oliveira (HFD-Waikiki Station), Madelyn Burgo, Rex Saunders, Mark Smith, Marilyn Verner, Norman Duncan, Carol Sword, Michelle Matson, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Anne Stevens, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER FOR SUB DISTRICT 3: **Finley nominated Gerald Katahara.** There were no other nominations. Kitahara provided a brief background on himself, including being a retired Hawaiian Airlines pilot, and noted that he wants to help make Waikiki a better place to live.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz who noted some members have not been attending meetings, Katahara reported that he will be able to attend meetings.

Katahara was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy. Neighborhood Assistant Chu administered the oath-of-office to Katahara.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deferred to the next meeting.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Firefighter Oliveira reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 6 structure, no brush, 2 rubbish and 1 vehicle fire; 92 medical emergencies, 2 search and rescue, 19 miscellaneous calls. There was one major incident, a fire on Nahua Street that involved nine companies.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is "Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out escape routes with at least two ways out of each room. Designate a location outside of the house where everyone can meet. Know where the closest phone is located to call 911."

Questions, answers and comments followed:



Follow up will be done on whether any of the medical responses were related to the sewage spill.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Loudermilk distributed a written report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Statistics show an increase in non-residential burglaries, a decrease in unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, a decrease in overall nuisance cases, 167 citations for illegal camping, and 18 citations last month for loud mufflers for a total of 51 to date this year.
2. Detective Ono was introduced and will be making reports at future meetings on crimes, provide prevention tips, etc.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were addressed for police concerns about loud mufflers. Statistics in the written report will reflect this information at future meetings. Follow up will be done on the cost of the citation.
2. Gruntz opposed the three strikes law, saying that it will create more risks for officers making traffic stops. Lt. Loudermilk noted that the department favors the law.
3. Cowling suggested that all uninsured drivers be removed from the road to reduce traffic congestion. Lt. Loudermilk reported that legal processes must be followed in addressing this type of violation, and that the State legislature would have to make changes in the law for there to be a requirement that law enforcement be notified when someone cancels their car insurance.
4. Carroll expressed concern about loud mufflers, particularly from motorcycles and that this should be checked at safety inspections and that if a violation is found afterwards, the inspector be held responsible. Lt. Loudermilk reported that the State legislature would have to make changes to the law to allow this, and that officers do issue citations. Attention to this type of violation has to be prioritized.
5. It was requested that noise violations be included in the statistics report. Lt. Loudermilk noted that officers do respond to noise complaints. A resident stated that following the noise can lead to finding of other problems.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Su Shin, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. There was one main break last month, occurring on Kaiulani Avenue.
2. There will be a public hearing on May 15, Beretania Street offices, 2:00 p.m., on the proposed rate increase. There have been no rate increases in the past 11 years, revenue has remained level, and the increase is needed to deal with increased operational costs, including of electricity which is used to operate pumps, fuel for vehicles, and to do proactive work on water mains, reservoirs, pumps, etc. The current rates are among the lowest in the country. The proposed increase is 13 percent and would be initiated in August, after the peak summer watering season. Additional rate increases are proposed over a five year period.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Chair Finley, the rate increase will have an effect on sewer fees as the sewer fee is based on the water rates. Customers that use large amounts of water for irrigation and other uses that do not add water to the sewer system can seek the installation of a separate water meter for such purposes through the Department of Environmental Services.
2. In response to Benevento, the Board of Water Supply has nothing to do with the administration of the sewer fund or the sewer system and that it only does the billing for the sewer fee.

Water wasters can be reported by calling 748-5041. Follow up will be done with Benevento on specific violators.

3. In response to Peters, the members of the Board of Water Supply, will make the final decision on the rate increases.
4. Follow up will be done with Chair Finley on a condominium's developer's process to get water service for a project. Gruntz noted that the Board of Water Supply never denies a developer's request for water service for a project.
5. Flood asked about the relationship between water usage and sewer fees. Answer: higher water usage and sewer fees, but a project (i.e. condo) can have a separate water meter to record the water usage to a swimming pool, landscaping, etc., which could lower sewer fees.

7:35 p.m.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NOISE PROBLEMS – Holt stated that he is working with the Waikiki Residents Association on establishing HUSH (Hear Urban Silence in Hawaii) a citizens' action committee, to seek resolution to noise problems.

BOARD MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: Gruntz noted that members Myers and Poole have missed numerous meetings this term. Chair Finely will follow up.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported replacement of the Waikiki sewer line that resulted in the dumping into the Ala Wai Canal will take three to four years to complete. There is no guarantee that the existing line will not break in the meantime, so a temporary by-pass line will be built. Plans are to build an \$8 million, temporary, 48 inch line of plastic pipe to transfer the load completely off the existing line until a new, permanent line is built. The contractor will make a presentation at the next Board meeting.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Peters, the temporary by pass line on Kalaniana'ole Highway is built of the same plastic material to be used on the Waikiki line. Plans are to install the new line in a tunnel dug under and along the Ala Wai Canal.
2. In response to Benevento about how the sewer fund might have been raided, the sewer fund is a budgeted item in the City budget, not a separate fund by itself. It was noted that Councilmember Djou has introduced a resolution requesting an investigation into the sewer spill.
3. In response to Gruntz, Rollman had no specifics on the temporary line at this time, but that there would be construction sites on both sides of the canal. Chair Finely reported that he has been in contact with the company and that plans are for the line to be tunneled 40 feet under the canal, and that the project would be done by the end of the year.
4. Gruntz requested that this project be coordinated with plans by the Army Corps of Engineers for a flood control project and additional dredging of the canal.
5. Gruntz suggested that the request for a crosswalk on Horbon Lane, near Ena Road, made at last month's meeting be approved.
6. In response to Flood, Rollman stated that the contractor doing pile driving near the site of the sewer line that leaked is alert to the work possibly causing another leak, noting vehicle weight and speed restrictions have been imposed on the street where the line leaked. Gruntz suggested the piles be screwed into the ground instead of the traditional driving method.
7. In response to Adams, there are contingency plans to deal with leaks of other high priority sewer lines that need replacement. There was a plan for a temporary line for the Waikiki line before the

leak occurred. Also, EPA is aware of problems with the sewer system and should not have been surprised at what happened with the Waikiki line.

8. Erteschik suggested, and Rollman noted that EPA concurs, that instead of paying a fine, the money be used to make repairs, etc.
9. M and E Hawaii is the contractor for the by-pass line.
10. In response to a resident, the by-pass line will be deep enough to prevent the erosion problem that may have caused the line to break.
11. In response to a resident, follow up is being done to determine if the dumping of sewage caused infections of other persons.
12. A resident suggested holding the previous administration responsible for the sewer line break.
13. Additional follow up will be done about missing street trees on Kaiolu Street and other side streets.
14. In response to Peters, Rollman reported his office, the Department of Information Technology, is working on improving the City's web site to provide more information about street closures for special events such as the Spam Jam.
15. In response to a resident, Rollman noted the City is working on solutions for noise problems.
16. Gruntz noted the Neighborhood Commission, which is required to meet only six times a year, has changed its regular meeting date at its meeting tonight and that it did not meet in February, March and April. Chair Finley noted the Commission probably did not respond to a letter from this Board about changing the meeting date as the Commission did not have a meeting since the letter was sent until tonight.
17. Benevento suggested diesel vehicles be required to have scrubbers to reduce soot emissions. Rollman noted that the City is testing the use of biodiesel for its vehicles. No problems have been experienced so far.
18. Sword reported construction noise coming from the Wyland hotel after 9:00 p.m. Rollman reported there are restrictions on when construction noise is allowed, and will follow up.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Council work on the budget continues, the next meeting is scheduled for May 26. Councilmember Djou has recommended some \$30 million in cuts. Work is being done on using savings to restore the E-Bus route.
2. Councilmember Djou has introduced a resolution calling for an investigation into the Waikiki sewer spill. Under the resolution, all the Councilmembers would serve as members of an investigative committee.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Gruntz requested that the investigation into the sewer dumping should cover the actions of the previous Administration and some members of the City Council.

8:10 p.m.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. The session is over and the \$580+ million budget surplus has been spent, with the public getting back about six percent.
2. Recently the public won out as the House and Senate were canceling out each other's bills.
3. The legislature did not adequately address the health bill cap (rate regulation) and the State's Employee Retirement System is still underfunded.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Gruntz noted that underfunding of employee retirement systems is common nationwide.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE ANNE STEVENS – Representative Stevens reported the following:

1. The Governor has released \$1.6 million for improvements to the Ala Wai Boat Harbor's F-Dock.
2. The recycling project held earlier this year collected \$3698, which will be donated to the Waikiki Community Center.
3. Work is being done with AARP on a pedestrian safety event. Volunteers will be evaluating crosswalk safety in various locations. Their evaluations will be submitted to the State Department of Transportation and the City Department of Transportation Services.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Erteschik, the F-Dock project is being funded with savings from other projects.
2. In response to Gruntz, privatization is just one of a number of proposals made with regard to getting improvements made at the Ala Wai Boat Harbor. Chair Finley noted the Board opposed privatization.
3. In response to Peters, the pedestrian safety event will involve volunteers completing a three-page report on each site.

Representative Stevens was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO - Representative Nishimoto distributed his monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report lists Capital Improvement Projects at: a) area schools, including: \$6.2 million for repair and maintenance projects at Ala Wai, Jefferson, Waikiki, Kuhio, Washington, Kaimuki High, and Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, b) \$2 million for Waikiki seawall improvements on the Gold Coast, c) \$1.5 million for the Ala Wai Watershed Flood Study, and d) \$65,000 for the Waikiki Community Center to provide counseling and case management services for the elderly.
2. Work is being done with Norwegian Cruise Lines on using Kapiolani Community College to provide training for crew members rather than sending them to a Mainland school.

8:23 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - Marsha Wienert, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Next Step Project, the temporary homeless shelter, has opened in Kakaako. A number of non-profit organizations are assisting the residents.

2. The Governor released \$1.6 million for the F-Dock project in Ala Wai Boat Harbor.
3. The Honolulu Triathlon is May 14, with the start at Ala Moana Beach Park at 5:45 a.m. There will be road closures. Most of the routes for participants run Ewa of Ala Moana Beach Park, including out to the Arizona Memorial.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz expressed thanks for road resurfacing work at Ala Wai Boat Harbor.
2. Benevento requested the State's assistance in dealing with the homeless problem in Waikiki. In response to Adams, the State is working on a number of homeless issues and the legislature funded for a number of homeless initiatives. Erteschik expressed thanks for the work on the opening of the homeless shelter in Kakaako.
3. Holt suggested the rental car companies advise their customers of Hawaii's crosswalk law as drivers of rental cars have been observed exhibiting road rage at other drivers stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. Wiener will follow up.
4. Gruntz questioned the accuracy of a current anti smoking public service announcement being seen on TV.
5. Adams suggested Waikiki traffic signal lights give priority to pedestrians first, then drivers, particularly at Ena Road and Kalakaua Avenue.

Winert was thanked for attending the meeting.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – Rick Egged, from the Waikiki Improvement Association, reported the Waikiki by Moonlight event, May 12, 7:00 – 11:00 p.m., will close Kalakaua Avenue, between Kaiulani and Lilioukanani, for free events, including entertainment, food booths, and fashion show.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Egged reported work is being done with Councilmember Djou on dealing with beach erosion. Gruntz suggested using ground glass mixed in with beach sand. Egged note there is a requirement that beach sand have a coral composition, and there is concern about impacts to the environment if glass were mixed in with beach sand and washes onto reefs, etc.
2. Cowling suggested that trash collection be made only once a week as is done on mainland cities.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:40 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

RAIL TRANSIT IN WAIKIKI – Pat Lee and Clyde Shimizu, consultants, reported the project is in the alternative analysis phase, which should be completed by the end of the year when the City Council selects the locally preferred alternative from: a) the no-build, which includes current highway and ferry projects, b) transportation system management, which includes expanding the bus system and highway projects, c) managed lanes, two lane elevated roadways on H-1, H-2 and Kam Highway for buses, high occupancy vehicles and toll paying cars, d) or fixed guideway, alternatives. For the fixed guideway, no technology has been selected at this time from possible light rail, monorail, mag lev, or heavy rail. Systems could be elevated, tunneled, and at-grade. Four possible routes begin in the Kapolei area and extend to the University of Hawaii, and include a line to the airport, five possible routes through Downtown Honolulu, and a line into Waikiki along Kalakaua Avenue and connecting to Kuhio Avenue, with two or three stations. If no Waikiki line is developed, the system could have stops at the Waikiki Convention Center and on McCully Street.

The alternative analysis should be completed and submitted to the City Council by November 1, followed by the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and preliminary engineering phases.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Benevento suggested the route, including elevated sections, incorporate a bicycle lane.
2. Chair Finley opposed the Waikiki line if it only has two stations and favored buses instead.
3. Gruntz opposed both the at-grade sections which would have an adverse impact on traffic, and elevated segments which would block sunlight, and noted that there are other higher priorities for the City to use its funds, like repairs and replace sewer lines underground.
4. Adams expressed concern about noise created by the system, opposed it completely replacing buses in Waikiki, and requested ridership projections. Shimizu reported ridership projections are in progress and preliminary figures should be available this summer.

Peters moved and Gruntz seconded that the Board opposes the Waikiki spur line. Discussion followed.

1. The Board previously opposed the tax increase to fund the system.
2. Adams noted it is too early to take a position, more information, including ridership projections, is needed. Gruntz stated that ridership projects estimate five to six percent of the population, and that New York City has a 16 percent ridership.
3. Gruntz supported the motion.
4. Benevento questioned if Date Street was considered as an alternate route. Shimizu will follow up.
5. Peters expressed concern about noise, impact on traffic, and the cost to provide only two stops in Waikiki.
6. Residents questioned cost of the system, cost of fares.
5. Ertschik noted more information would be desirable, but supported a vote at this time, and strongly opposed the spur line.
6. Benevento questioned if the Board voted tonight, then after receiving new information, could it change its vote?

Connell moved and Flood second to table the motion until the next meeting. The motion carried, 9-2. Simpson and Peters opposed the motion. Apaka left the meeting earlier in the evening.

Shimizu will follow up on updating the Board. After some discussion it was noted that the information may not be available until after the Board's June meeting.

Additional questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Gruntz, if the system runs at grade, a fully automated, driverless system could not be used.
2. Residents opposed the airport segment, suggested the Waikiki segment be built over the Ala Wai Canal, suggested that removal of uninsured drivers would improve traffic, supported the managed lanes alternative, opposed the Waikiki segment if there were only two stops, and expressed concern about noise from the system.

Everyone was thanked for their participation in this portion of the meeting.

9:17 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATIVE – Erteschik distributed a written report listing some bills of interest that passed this session of the legislature.

Matson thanked the Board for its support of an Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board's resolution "To request an immediate 'hold' on all actions of the HCDA regarding Kakaako Makai Development." Erteschik thanked the Ala Moana – Kakaako Board and many others for their work on this matter.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Chair Finley reported Merz had planned to, but was not present, to provide additions to the minutes. Gruntz suggested the use of legal document type of numbered lines on minutes to make referencing particular segments easier.

Flood moved and Adams seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR REPORT: Chair Finley reported the following:

Notices from the Liquor Commission received included: a) transfer of business and retail license of Heidi's Sundries and Gifts, at 2058 Kuhio Avenue, b) transfer of business license for The Cheesecake Factory.

No notice has been received related to the Irish Rose Saloon. A resident provided the Board with an update of a court ruling that will allow the owner to apply for a new license. The surrounding community opposed the granting of a license.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant